



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 09/23/2009

Fiscal Resources Task Group - Vision 2020
 Minutes of Meeting 9/23/09

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), David Garbarino, Charlie Hayes, Pete Howard (Secretary)

TOWN DAY:

Pete reviewed a handout to be used at the Vision 2020 booth to interest new members. A few corrections were made. He requested help manning the booth resulting in Pete 10-11, David 11-12, Charlie Hayes 12-1, Pete 1:30-3. Gordon (to be out of town) will request more help. Many thanks to all who assisted in this effort.

OLD BUSINESS:

SOTTA: Pete reviewed his proposal of last spring to change the way the State Of The Town address is arranged & produced. The idea is to institutionalize the address and to reduce the cost and effort to arrange it. The ideas have been well received by several selectmen and by the moderator. After some discussion, we agreed to present it formally to the BoS in Nov along with other matters.

My tax dollars: The deputy Town Manager has reviewed neither the FY09 nor the FY08 revisions. Gordon to is hoping to have this completed before our next meeting.

Retrospective analysis of 5 yr plan: Gordon has requested additional data for FY09. He plans to have a revised version available for our next mtg.

NEW BUSINESS:

The following possible topics for work this year were discussed. Decisions will be made at next meeting.

Employee health care insurance: Gordon reviewed the effort on this topic so far. It is unclear what to do next. Perhaps discuss w/ Selectman LaCourt & Personnel Director Malloy.

Insurance budget presentation review: Can this budget be presented more clearly?

Water/Sewer working capital issue analysis: A one time saving might be realized by changing from 2 to 4 billings a year and shortening the grace period for bill payment. Perhaps a meeting w/ the treasurer?

Local option taxes/Community preservation act: The new hotel & restaurant tax authority may be approved by the upcoming special town meeting. Perhaps the Community Preservation Act should go back on the table.

Special Purpose Fund (Trust Funds) reporting & analysis: A number of funds established by donations are controlled by the Trust Fund Commissioners and managed by the treasurer and are not visible to the Town's residents on the whole. Perhaps greater transparency would be desirable. Perhaps a meeting w/ the Treasurer and possibly a warrant article.

Assessor website, Site is still missing a assessment procedure description. Gordon to complete crafting this.

AFD Staffing Analysis (day/night call analysis) Perhaps prepare a proposal for Fire Chief based on call data gathered several years ago to see if cost savings can be realized.

Town mailings and communications with residents/taxpayers/ratepayers Can the mailings be used for other info than scholarship fundraising? Perhaps consider Lexington's practice.

NEXT MEETINGS -

10/22 Thurs CHANGED from 10/15 (Standing Committee Mtg 10/14 – all welcome)

11/18 Wed

12/9 Wed

1/13 Wed

All these meetings will occur at 7:30 in 2nd flr Town Hall Annex mtg room